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Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01166 290606Z

15
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
---------- 117173
R 290530Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

S E C R E T SAIGON 1166

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PFOR VS CH HK
SUBJ: PARACEL ISLANDS

REF: STATE 018390

1. WE HAVE NOTED UPI STORY. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, IT

PROBABLY CAME FROM "PAID SOURCE" OPERATING ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT IF THERE IS NO NEWS FOR WHICH ONE CAN GET PAID, FABRICATE ONE. THIS IS NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO QUESTION THE RELIABILITY OF UPI WHOSE PERSONNEL WE REGARD AS RESPONSIBLE AND SERIOUS JOURNALISTS.

2. I HAVE ORDERED THOROUGH CHECK THIS MORNING AND WE CAN FIND NO CONFIRMATION WHATSOEVER FROM ANY RESPONSIBLE SOURCE OF ANY PART OF THE STORY. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT VIETNAMESE FRUSTRATION OVER PARACELS WILL RESULT IN ANY KIND OF RASH MILITARY ACTION. THEY ARE NOW COMMITTED TO THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE AND WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF ANY VIETNAMESE AIR OR NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE PARACELS.

3. SINCE PRESIDENT THIEU'S LETTER WAS PASSED THROUGH ME TO PRESIDENT NIXON, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE COULD SIMILARLY BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH ME, WHICH
SECRET

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WILL GIVE ME AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN REITERATE THE POINTS YOU HAVE MADE WITH THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY AND WHICH YOU WILL MAKE IN THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO THIEU'S LETTER.
MARTIN

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SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: STATE INFO HONG KONG
PEKING
CINCPAC
Type: TE
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